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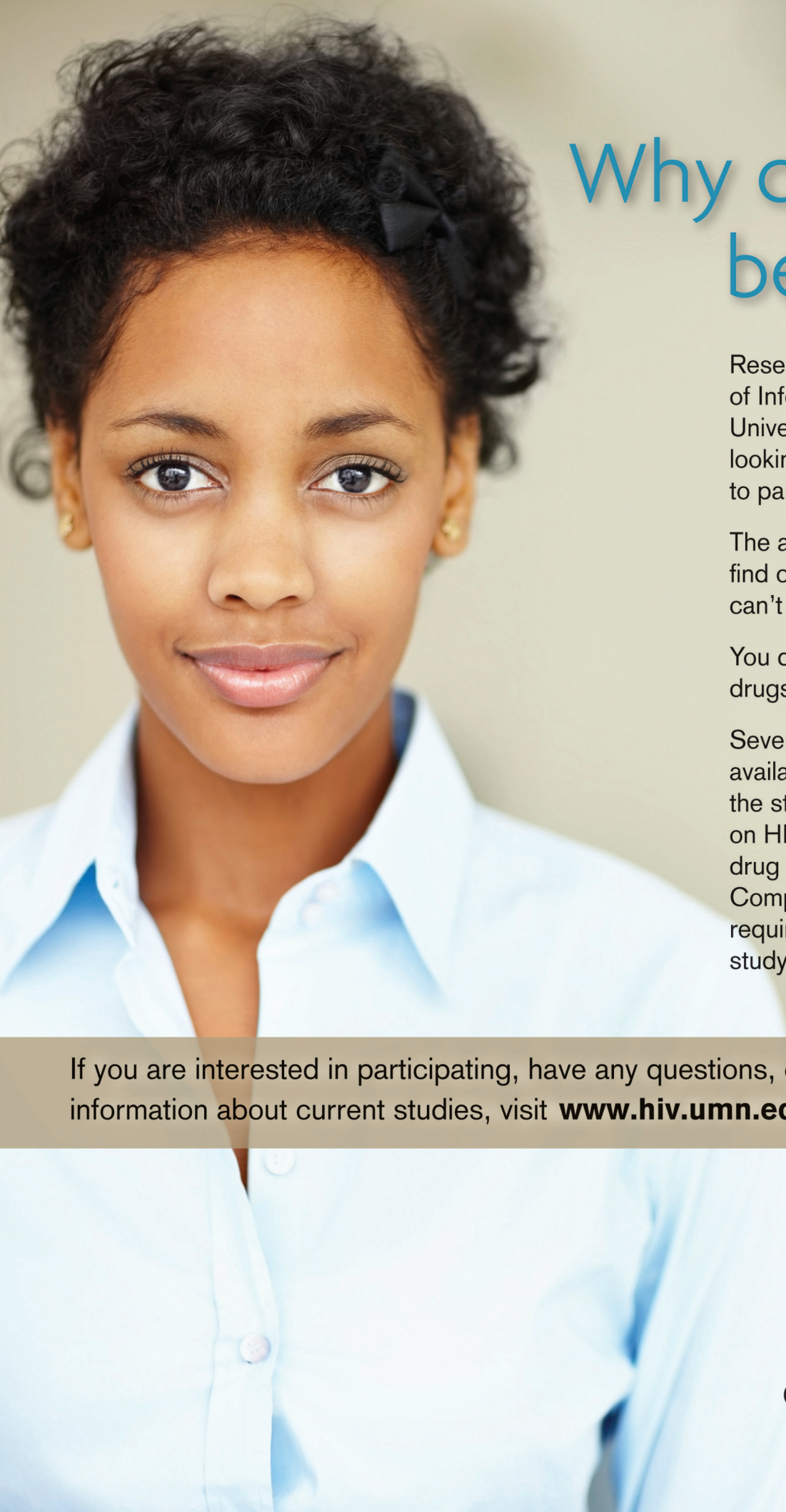


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Volume 16, Issue 405
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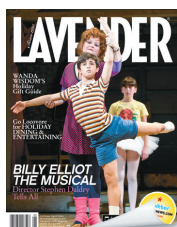
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Ballet Class in *Billy Elliot the Musical*: Faith Prince (Mrs. Wilkinson), Giuseppe Bausilio (Billy), and Rachel Mracna (Debbie). Photo by Michael Brosilow

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Hear Voices



So many voices...no one can hide. Through TV, iPod, iPhone—even print—one hears them. “Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men” blares throughout the merchant realm, but the voices form a mixed chorus.

Arkansas school board member Clint McCance urged all gay kids to “kill themselves [sic].”

Meanwhile, 14-year-old Graeme Taylor made an impassioned, articulate speech before the school board members of Howell, Michigan. He lauded teacher Jay McDowell, who had been suspended, in part, for wearing a purple shirt in solidarity with GLBT students.

Taylor declared, “This teacher, whom I fully support, finally stood up and said something. I’ve been...in classrooms...where children have said the worst things—the kinds of things that helped drive me to a suicide attempt at only 9 years old.”

Megachurch Pastor Jim Swilley, of Atlanta’s Conyers Church in the Now, came out to his congregation, hoping to change attitudes toward homosexuality. He cited the recent rash of gay teen suicides as his motive, adding, “I know a lot of straight people think it is a choice. It is not.”

Swilley, 52, and father of four, knew he was gay since he was a

little boy. He credited his ex-wife, Debye, who knew his secret, with urging him to follow his church’s motto: “Real people experiencing a real God in the real world.”

The November 15 issue of *Newsweek* featured Brian Brown, whose National Organization for Marriage (NOM) was a major factor in rolling back gay-marriage initiatives in Maine and California, as well as ousting three Iowa Supreme Court justices who ruled to legalize same-sex marriage in 2009.

Brown, whose wife is expecting their seventh child, is determined that only those who fit his definition of marriage should have that legal right.

As Brown averred, “If gay marriage is allowed, then the state is essentially saying that my views on marriage, and the majority of Americans’ views on marriage, are equivalent to discrimination.... And, ultimately, same sex-marriage is not true.”

Never mind all the other forms and definitions of marriage over the centuries. Brown’s is not a mind to be changed by fact, logic, or the law. Far from a McCance, he is articulate and persuasive. He is Oxford-educated (the Unabomber was Harvard ’62). He is willing, like all fanatics, to pursue his goal full-bore. He has the clout and cash to do so.

So many voices—which ones will prevail in 2011 and the coming years? **E.B. BOATNER**

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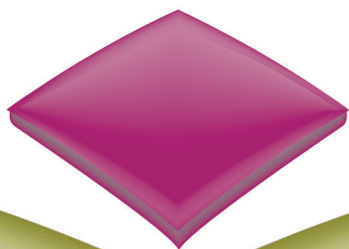
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INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. **ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines**, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

**I am outgoing.
I am on the go.
I am a newlywed.
I am HIV positive.**

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

In clinical studies lasting 96 weeks, patients being treated with HIV medication for the first time who took ISENTRESS plus *Truvada*:

- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
 - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

Not sure where to start? Visit isentress.com/questions

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232

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Patient Information
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Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS¹ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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Revised June 2010
9795110
U.S. Patent Nos. US 7,169,780



Executive Director Curt Prins Leaves District 202 After a Year



DISTRICT 202 announced the resignation and departure of Executive Director Curt Prins effective November 8. He had served in the position since 2009, during a year of major transition for the organization. District 202's mission is to create safe spaces for GLBT youth and their allied friends where they can build self-confidence, self-expression, skills, and resources.

Curt Prins. Photo Courtesy of District 202



Tretter Collection Celebrates 10th Anniversary at Open House



ON NOVEMBER 13, the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota hosted a community open house at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Part of the Tretter Collection's 10th-anniversary celebration, the event featured the Tretter Time Capsule and Oral History Project. The celebration continues with the exhibit *Saving Our Lives* through February 5.

Jean-Nickolaus Tretter (right) and KARE 11's Jana Shortal. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Minnesota OUT! College Conference Networks Statewide Campuses



THE FIFTH-ANNUAL Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference (MOCC) took place November 12-14 at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. It brought together students, faculty, alumni, and community members from around Minnesota and the surrounding region to discuss issues facing GLBT and allied communities on college and university campuses, as well as in the greater community.

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Community Gathers for Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil



ON NOVEMBER 20, at Spirit of the Lakes/Minnehaha United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, the local GLBT community joined the Human Rights Campaign for the 12th-annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. Throughout the world, people gather every year to pay respect to those needlessly killed by hate crimes against the transgender community.

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Stephen Daldry. Photo by David Scheinmann

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR TELLS ALL

INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN DALDRY

Few world-class stage directors are equally world-class film directors. But Great Britain's Stephen Daldry is. Like American legends Elia Kazan and Mike Nichols, he is a transcendent master of both realms.

In the 1990s, Daldry's staggering National Theatre of Great Britain revival of *An Inspector Calls* played the Ordway, stunning local audiences.

Last year, Daldry won the Best Director Tony for the musical stage version of his 2000 film drama *Billy Elliot*, for which he had received his first Best Director Oscar nod. The musical won 10 Tonys. It deals with a boy in a rugged English mining town who has extraordinary potential to be a great ballet dancer.

Just a few months before, Daldry had been nominated for another Best Director Oscar for Best Picture-nominated *The Reader*, which won Kate Winslet the Best Actress Oscar in a controversial bisexual role.

If you were thrilled by *Brokeback Mountain*'s commercial success in 2005, thank Daldry, who three years before cleared the path with *The Hours*, nominated for nine Oscars. It won Nicole Kidman a Best Actress Oscar for her performance as lesbian writer Virginia Woolf. Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore also were nominated for their lesbian roles, as was Ed Harris for his portrayal of a gay man with AIDS.

I spoke with Daldry about his films and *Billy Elliot the Musical*, which opens on December 16 at the Orpheum. Various actors will alternate in the boy roles of Billy and Michael.

Early on, the "Dad" character (Rich Hebert) is reactive against his son's desire to dance. Although it's never established that Billy is gay, do you think homophobia and artpophobia, which stereotypically figure into boys who don't have sufficient interest in sports, figure into the dad's reaction?

I don't think he has any concept of his child being gay. Once he sees his son dance, I think he has an intuitive idea of what grace is—when he sees something graceful and beautiful and amazing within his son. I think that's what he connects with in terms of the skill of his son.

What I took from Gary Lewis's devastating Oscar-nominated film performance was a man who could not deal with his son being different, and, of course, on top of all that, the poor man's grieving over the death of his wife.

I think you're right. I think it's the idea of any sort of difference. I don't think he would have actually made the jump that the difference might mean his son might be gay. I don't think he's made that jump in his head. It's just the idea of difference—someone

doing something different, whether it's dancing, whether it's music, or whatever it would be within that society. It's difference that is the hard thing for him to come to terms with.

In the film, Billy's sexual orientation is not actually stated. But clearly, his friend, Michael, has a crush on him, and Michael also cross-dresses. They sing a song about that.

Yes. One of the big numbers of the show is a song called "Expressing Yourself." Michael and Billy, both of them, get to sing a song about the joys of expressing yourself, however you want to do it. Michael's particular way, of course, is dressing up as a girl. And Billy's way is dancing. So, it's sort of combined in a crazy, spectacular number about the joy of dresses and dressing up. The two of them are being different in very different ways, and celebrating that difference.

Elton John was astounded by *Billy Elliot*, your film. Why did he relate so strongly to it?

When he watched the film, I think he had a great personal association with it, because his father was so against him becoming a musician. Obviously, I don't think Elton has any particular affinity toward dance. But he certainly had an understanding of the very complex relationship with fathers who want you to be somebody you are not. For Elton, I think it was about the idea that he was going to be a musician, and that's something Elton's father was very against.

When I saw *An Inspector Calls*, I was bowled over by the raging social consciousness of your staging. Does that sort of social outrage come through the miners' plight in *Billy Elliot*?

I certainly hope so. It's the story of the community, as much as it's a story of a family, as much as it's the story of Bill. But it's about a whole village in crisis, because the government wants to shut down the pits, and destroy the mining industry in Great Britain. The family's in crisis. The mother's just died, and now, the family's economic future is threatened by the strike. And in the middle of it, there's this sort of wonderful cuckoo—this sort of magical child. All the hopes and aspirations and dreams of that community get invested into this little child, as he really is the only one who gets out. I love that story about the kid that "got out"—the kid that "got away."

The show echoes the 1984 miners strike, which rocked the UK. Tory Prime Minister Thatcher was antagonistic toward the miners,



LAST YEAR, DALDRY WON THE BEST DIRECTOR TONY FOR THE MUSICAL STAGE VERSION OF HIS 2000 FILM DRAMA *BILLY ELLIOT*.



(Above) "Shine"; (below) "Born to Boogie." Photos by Michael Brosilow

and gay groups from London went out to support them. *The Reader* also has political impact. But it's best-known for Kate Winslet's illiterate bisexual character having an erotic affair with an adolescent male. We actually find ourselves much more disturbed by her nonsexual actions in service of the Nazis. It's a bold realignment with just what is horrifically criminal and what is obviously far less criminal.

Two things about the character that Kate Winslet plays. One is, if you will, she's morally illiterate. She has no context. She likes people to read to her, whether it's young girls or a young boy. But she has no moral center. And I thought one of the fascinating things about the character is: Are we still able to find any understanding of the character as someone with no moral center? Secondly, she goes through a process of becoming literate in an intellectual way. She's determined at the end of her life to learn to read. But does that give her any moral insight? And I was keen that there's not necessarily a relationship between being able to read, and being an intellectual and moral clarity. The two can still be in conflict with each other.

In the span of 10 years, you directed some outright historic film performances. Is that because of your theater background?

I think there's not a lot of relationship between the theater and the cinema. But one of the things that is a crossover: I suppose I'm just used to working with actors, and I've been blessed with attracting some great films. But I think that's central to the spectacular screenplays that I've been lucky enough to work with. And I've had a fantastic time working with those actors. I wouldn't like to say too much. And maybe, just maybe, there's some relationship with the joy of acting when you have come from the theater that you can put into the process of making a film.

***The Hours* was the first Oscar nomination-laden film to be permeated with lesbian content. Was there any fallout with the studio?**

I didn't get any. I think my relationship has always been very lucky with the studios. When we finished the film, and I handed it in to Paramount, the only comment I got from them was: "Thank you very much." I got no pushback from them at all. **JOHN TOWNSEND**

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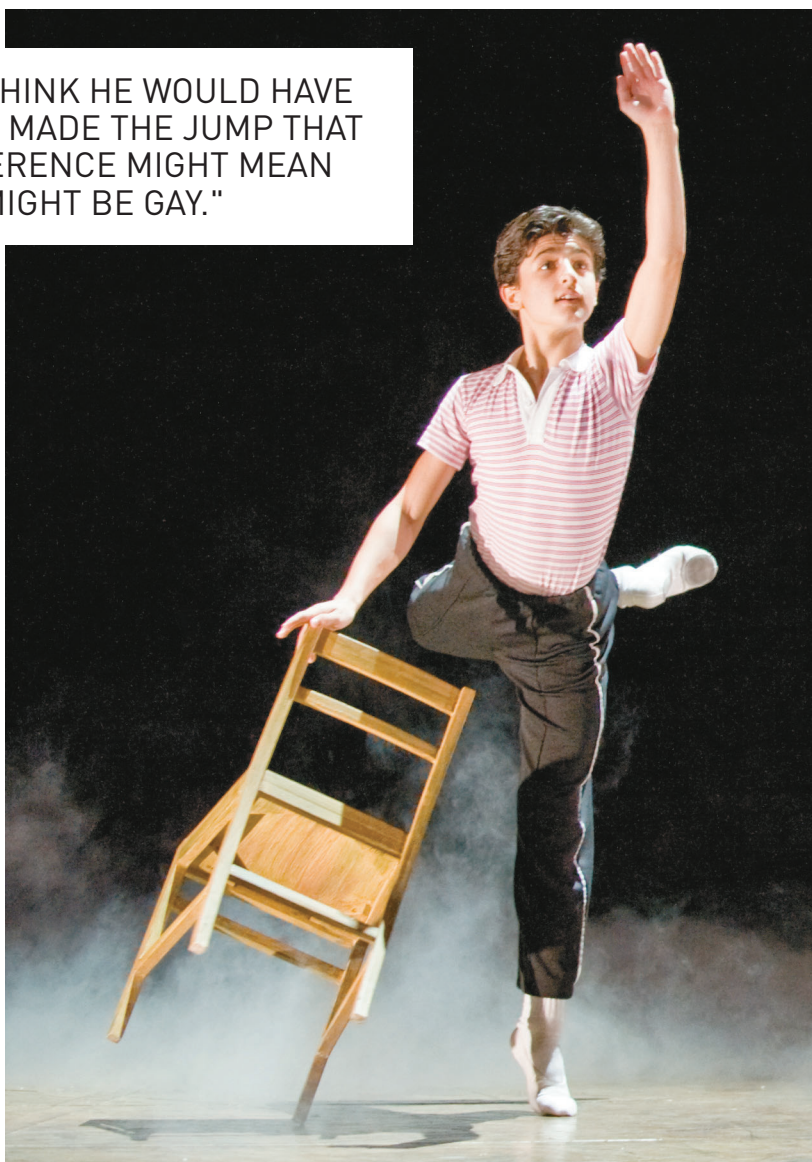
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"I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE ACTUALLY MADE THE JUMP THAT THE DIFFERENCE MIGHT MEAN HIS SON MIGHT BE GAY."



(Above) "Solidarity"; (below) "Dream Ballet." Photos by Michael Brosilow

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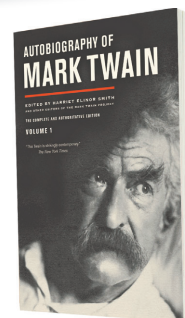
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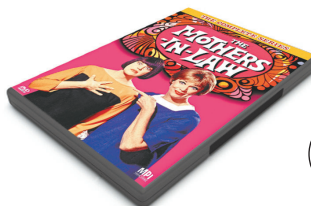
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GO LOCOVORE FOR HOLIDAY DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

JUDY KITE-GOSH OFFERS INSIGHTS

I recently visited Michigan's southwestern Harbor Country: New Buffalo and surrounding Berrien County.

Judy Kite-Gosh, owner-chef of Kite's Kitchen & Retro Café in New Buffalo, lauds the region's veritable cornucopia of available fruit and fowl, vegetables and meats.

Kite-Gosh recalls, "In 1992, when I decided to give up my executive life in Chicago, and start a food business, I traveled all over the country looking for the perfect combination of agriculture, climate, and lifestyle. After six months, I ended up back home in Harbor Country, in the state I loved, only 70 miles from Chicago and all my friends.

"I was very excited about working with the local farmers to create our seasonal cuisine for our retail store and restaurant, although after 10 years, I began to worry about the future of our family-owned farms, as many were not planning to continue with the next generation.

"All the major processors had left the state, and were buying and processing their food in places like Spain, Chile, and Mexico, leaving local farmers without a market. I really wanted to do something to help, and when introduced to the VP of Production for our local PBS station, we decided to produce a documentary to highlight the fantastic food grown in our region."

The result was the hourlong, award-winning *Farm Fresh to You* (2007), which Kite-Gosh created, cowrote, coproduced, and hosted, working with Emmy Award-winning producer Angel Hernandez.

Kite-Gosh reports, "The feedback from farmers has been great, and local agriculture is on the rise."

Currently, Kite-Gosh is writing a companion cookbook: *Farm Fresh to You: A Locavores' Guide to Great Eating*. She also is creating a 13-part series, *Get Local*, which will feature the entire Great Lakes region.

Kite-Gosh relates, "We hold an annual Harvest Feast Celebration in September, and our local chefs and farmers come together to host a magnificent feast. Every-



Photo by E.B. Boatner

thing on our Holiday Menu is from our local farms, and I'm sure your readers also can source everything they need for holiday celebrations right in their own backyard."

As Kite-Gosh enthuses, "When fall comes to Harbor Country and the holiday season approaches, I think of all the wonderful things that the fall harvest provides: pumpkins, squash, Brussels sprouts, turkeys, apples, cranberries, sweet potatoes—the list goes on.

"It always brings back memories of my childhood and my Father, who was a locavore before there was a word for it. Everything on our table during the growing season came either from our garden, a local farm, or the local butcher."

Kite-Gosh remarks, "We in the Great Lakes region are blessed with an abundance of local farms, and I highly recommend your readers search out their own nearby farms and farmer's markets. Becoming a locavore is a process, and once you get started, you'll never want to go back to the shrink-wrapped world of the average grocery store. It's the best food money can buy. Knowing who grows your food is an important step in guarding your health and the economic health of your community."

Once you start, you even may try Kite-Gosh's suggestion: "Take that old refrigerator, and bury it. It makes a great root cellar for all those potatoes, carrots, apples, onions, etc."

For more info: <judy@kiteskitchen.com>.



Photo by E.B. Boatner



Photo by Roger Harvey

Kite-Gosh offers one possible locavore menu for holiday dining:

Soup

- Butternut Bisque

Salads

- Poached Pear Salad with Port Wine Citrus Vinaigrette
- Apple Cranberry Salad

Main Course

- Roast Grass-Fed Hen Turkey with Savory Stuffing and Giblet Gravy

Sides

- Baked Artichoke, Spinach, and Brie Stuffing
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- Baked Sweet Potatoes with Pure Michigan Maple Syrup
- Soy-Glazed Brussels Sprouts

Dessert

- Pumpkin Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream
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BIG GAY NEWS



NATIONAL

IOWA SENATE LEADER VOWS TO BLOCK GAY-MARRIAGE DEBATE

Newly-reelected Iowa Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal said in November he would block any debate on a state constitutional amendment that would define marriage as only between a man and a woman. He stated, "As long as I'm leader, I do not intend to take that up for debate."

SENATE LEADER VOWS DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL VOTE IN DECEMBER

US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced in late November he will bring the Defense Authorization Bill—complete with language that would begin a repeal of the military's ban on openly gay service members—up for a vote in early December. It will come after a hearing about the recently-leaked Pentagon survey that shows the majority of service members and their families would be fine with openly gay people in the military. Reid said, "Our Defense Department supports repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell as a way to build our all-volunteer armed forces. We need to repeal this discriminatory policy, so that any American who wants to defend our country can do so."

GOPROUD URGES GOP TO AVOID SOCIAL ISSUES

According to Politico, gay Republican group GOProud and some Tea Party leaders are urging Republicans in Congress not to add social issues to their legislative agenda. In a letter to House Speaker-elect John Boehner and Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell, they wrote, "This election was not a mandate for the Republican Party, nor was it a mandate to act on any social issue." Ralph King, a Tea Party movement leader who was one of at least 17 people signing the letter, said, "When they were out in the Boston Harbor, they weren't arguing about who was gay or who was having an abortion."

WORLD

FINNISH STATE CHURCH SANCTIONS PRAYER FOR GAY MARRIAGES

Agence France-Presse (AFP) reports that Finland's state church announced in

November it would create a “prayer moment” for registered same-sex partnerships. In a statement, the Evangelical Lutheran Church’s highest administrative body in Finland, the General Synod, said, “The proposal offers a positive opportunity to minister to church members who are sexual minorities.” A synod spokesman told AFP that ministers will be able to perform the prayer with gay couples in a church, but it won’t constitute a church’s blessing of the union itself. The announcement is seen as a concession, because it follows a recent televised debate on gay marriage where church officials argued gay marriage was contrary to Biblical teaching. In the month following the debate, more than 40,000 registered Lutherans quit the church.

GERMAN CHURCH ALLOWS GAY PASTORS TO LIVE WITH PARTNERS



According to Religion News Service, Lutheran ministers in the German state of Bavaria now will be allowed to live with their same-sex partners in parish parsonages if they enter into a state-sanctioned civil union. The Bavarian Church Council made the ruling. The church already allows openly gay ministers, and approves of same-sex civil unions.

GERMAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS LAUNCH GAY COFFINS

German funeral directors have a new option for their gay customers. Coffins covered with homoerotic art now are available, thanks to coffin-makers Mike Konigsfeld and Tom Brandl in Cologne. The designers, a couple themselves, say the muscular young men painted on the coffins are a perfect way to send off a loved one. The two related, “Naturally, there were some people who threw their hands up in horror when we had them on display in the window, but they are tasteful and beautiful—like our customers.” **WRITTEN & COMPILED BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR**

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ATTORNEY OBTAINS ACQUITTAL IN SEX-STING CASE

INTERVIEW WITH JEFF DEAN

In an interview with *Lavender*, Minneapolis attorney Jeff Dean discussed the recent acquittal of his client caught up in a sex sting at Crosby Park in St. Paul.

Would you provide a summary of the current sex sting, and the allegations against your client?

My client was simply out for a walk in the park when the undercover officer approached him, pretending to show intense personal interest. The officer soon shifted the conversation to sex, asking my client about his sexual interests, and sharing his own. He then invited my client to walk into the woods, while continuing the personal and sexual conversation. Flattered by the officer's advances, my client momentarily touched the clothing over the officer's groin area. The cop immediately arrested him, and charged him with indecent exposure and lewd conduct, even though nobody else saw the touch occur.

Explain your defense strategy for your client.

The defense strategy was twofold.

First, we established that it is not a crime to sexually touch a consenting adult—or an adult who purports to consent—even in a public place, such as a beach or park, if nobody else sees it. The St. Paul sting unit seems to have been misinformed that any sexual contact is per se lewd if it occurs in a public place. The correct legal analysis is whether an inference of indecency can be drawn from the nature of the place and the circumstances in which the touch occurs.

The second defense strategy was that the officer's conduct of sexually luring my client was entrapment. Entrapment is a defense if counsel can establish that the police originated the idea of the crime, and induced the accused to engage in it. My client was in the park minding his own

business when the officer approached him and seduced him. It was the officer's overt sexual advances that enticed my client to touch him.

In 2008, you defended a man arrested in the same airport sex sting that snared then-Senator Larry Craig. The jury in that case also acquitted your client. Was your defense strategy in the Crosby Park case similar to your strategy in the airport case?

In the airport cases, an undercover officer would sit in a bathroom stall sending signals of interest to others, who responded by looking into the officer's stall, and were then arrested. My argument was that it is not a crime to look at and flirt with a person who initiated contact, and then invited you to do so, even when that occurs in adjacent bathroom stalls.

In what other types of cases is entrapment raised as a defense? When will an entrapment defense be successful?

Whether the defense is successful turns on this question: Did the police simply provide an opportunity for a willing person to commit the act? Or did the police persuade a person to commit an act he was not predisposed to commit? For example, in a prostitution sting, it would not be entrapment for an undercover officer to stand on a corner posing as a prostitute, and arrest a person who approached her offering money for sex.

What would you tell readers about how to respond to such invitations?

Be careful. In some of these cases, the police have arrested people for just talking about what they would like to do sexually. Do not assume that because your actions are legal, you are safe from being arrested. Even though you could be exonerated in the end, you would still have to go through



Jeff Dean. Photo Courtesy of Jeff Dean

the court process if arrested. Also, don't bother asking the person if he is a cop. An undercover officer is not required to disclose that.

Will this case change the way that police conduct these types of sting operations?

It will if the police want to be spared continued acquittals. It took the jurors just 50 minutes of deliberations before finding my client not guilty. In postverdict interviews, jurors were asked about the issues they focused on. They said that they spent most of the time talking about why this type of case is even being prosecuted, stating that my client's act of touching the officer "was something any couple would do." Community outrage and pressure, which I think is highly-appropriate based on the conduct of this sting operation, is the best way to prevent these police abuses from occurring in the future. **E.B. BOATNER**



Greg Eiss

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NEWS

NeverStraight.com GIVES BACK TO GLBT COMMUNITY

Based in the Twin Cities, recently-established NeverStraight.com is the GLBT community's largest adult superstore, offering shoppers convenient online access to 18,000-plus products that can be shipped discreetly to them.

As the NeverStraight.com website explains, "The term 'straight,' to us, has become synonymous with the hatred and injustice that are unbridled in our society today. That is why we are Never Straight."

According to the website, NeverStraight.com strongly is committed to equality for the GLBT community: "You can simply call us Fair-Minded. That term brings new meaning to the idea that we are all equal. Our petty differences aside, we are all born on this earth free. No man, woman, or child should be denied the civil rights bestowed upon others simply because of sexual orientation or identity. Marriage, among other things, is not a privilege reserved for some. It's a right, and it belongs to everyone—period."

Putting words into action, NeverStraight.com gives back to the GLBT community, stating on its website, "NeverStraight.com is a business, but we have philanthropy at the vanguard of our directive. We not only wish to open doors to the community by first supporting it, but also we will hold the doors open by laying down a foundation where equality for all is our cornerstone."

Indeed, through January 1, NeverStraight.com is donating 100 percent of its profits to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in the spirit of equality. What's more, when customers enter the coupon code "EQUALITY" upon checkout at NeverStraight.com, they will receive an additional 10 percent off their purchase, besides helping HRC fight for our rights.

In the future, NeverStraight.com plans to continue donating a percentage of all sales to GLBT organizations.

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Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus Begins 30th-Anniversary Season with *Holiday Harmonies* Concert

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus (TCGMC) rings in its 30th season with its annual holiday concert in collaboration with Bells of the Lakes handbell choir under the direction of William H. Mathis.

Holiday Harmonies: Ringing in the Season will be performed December 10-11, 8 PM, and December 12, 2 PM, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota West Bank Campus.

This holiday concert features favorites like "Deck the Halls," "The Bells of Christmas," and "Variations on Jingle Bells," in addition to traditional French and German carols. As always, the chorus will present works richly steeped in holiday traditions—"Silent

Night" and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"—while adding wit, whimsy, and over-the-top staging as only it can.

TCGMC Artistic Director Dr. Stan Hill says, "This concert features stunning new arrangements for men's chorus with bell choir. And, we're thrilled to welcome guest soloist Lola Watson, whose gorgeous soprano voice will soar above the rich sound of the men of the chorus."

"We're celebrating two very special anniversaries this year. The chorus celebrates 30 years of gay men building community through music, while our beloved principal accompanist, Timothy De Prey, celebrates his 20th season with the chorus."

Holiday Harmonies will provide TCGMC's response to the increased awareness around

bullying of GLBT youth and the tragic consequences of increased incidents of suicide among youth. The chorus's "It Gets Better" video can be found on its website home page at <www.tcgmc.org>, as well as on YouTube at <<http://www.youtube.com/thetcgmc>>.

The chorus invites audience members to bring items for holiday baskets to be donated to The Aliveness Project, which will have a table in the lobby.

TCGMC recognizes AT&T as a corporate sponsor and *Lavender* Magazine as its official GLBT media sponsor during these holiday concerts.

Tickets are now on sale through the University of Minnesota Arts Ticket Office: (612) 624-2345 or <www.northrop.umn.edu>. ■

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Burn This. Photo by Sarah Bauer

Burn This • [Through Dec. 19](#) • Gremlin Theatre • 2400 University Ave., St. Paul • (651) 228-7008 • www.gremlin-theatre.org

Lanford Wilson's 1990 drama probes the mourning phase of friends and relatives left behind after the death of Robbie, a gay dancer. Wade Vaughn and Katie Gunzel play Robbie's beloved roommates.

Director Ellen Fenster explains, "We learn early on that he was shunned by his conventional New Jersey family. It is ultimately the intense regret and deep grief of Pale [Peter Christian Hansen], Robbie's older brother, that brings the characters together in a surprising and passionate exploration of who they are and who they want to be."

Naked Stages

[Through Dec. 11](#)

Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
(612) 825-0459
www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

This avant-garde stage series launches with *Body Parts: Reflections on Reflections*, directed by Harry Waters Jr.

Performance artist Andrea Jenkins says it examines "the objectification and hypersexualization of transgender and women's bodies, while reflecting our own image back to us. Transgender bodies are the last target for close-minded bigots, religious zealots, cultural clowns, Hip-Hop artists, and comedians. They are fair game for sexual exploitation

and employment discrimination. Transgender individuals who live their lives openly or otherwise are tortured by their families, their children, their communities—and sometimes, by themselves."

All is Calm

[Dec. 16-19](#)

Pantages Theatre
710 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
Christmas on the Radio
[Dec. 17-22](#)

Various Twin Cities Locations
(612) 435-0055
www.cantusononline.org

The resplendent Cantus ensemble has two holiday offerings.

All is Calm, set in World War I, relates a Christmas when French



Fully Committed. Photo by Ann Marsden



The 39 Steps. Photo by Michal Daniel

and German troops laid down their arms to unite in peaceful celebration.

Christmas on the Radio nods to Cantus's being Minnesota Public Radio's 2010-11 Artists in Residence. It will premiere Brian Schmidt's "O Magnum Mysterium," as well as other pieces new to Cantus: Rachmaninoff's "Pridite" and the Muskogee Tribe's "Helelyuan."

Fully Committed

[Through Dec. 19](#)

Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Ave., Mpls.
(612) 822-7063
www.jungletheater.com

Masterful and dazzling Nathan Keepers reprises his 2002 solo triumph about a harried reservationist and the multiple snobs he wrangles with at a ritzy Manhattan restaurant. That performance was six years before the 2008 economic collapse, and then today's grim unemployment stats. This time around, he and director Casey Stangl have elicited darker textures about the authoritarian mentality that rules some restaurant management and the vindictiveness of its elite clientele. Becky Mode's incisively-hilarious script resonates even more vividly now than it did before.

The 39 Steps

Through Dec. 19

A Christmas Carol

Through Dec. 30

Guthrie Theater

818 S. 2nd St., Mpls.

(612) 377-2224

www.guthrietheater.org

Joel Sass directs a snappy, stylish, and uproarious spoof of Alfred Hitchcock's classic film, *The 39 Steps*. A crackerjack design team and cast capture the essence of the 1930s. Luverne Seifert gives what is perhaps his best performance ever in multiple roles that cross the gender divide, and tickle the funny bone.

For the past 35 years, the Guthrie has staged Barbara Field's adaptations of Charles Dickens's holiday classic. This year marks a shift, with British playwright Crispin Whittell's new adaptation. Obie-winner Daniel Gerroll plays Scrooge. Joe Dowling directs.

The SantaLand Diaries

Through Dec. 31

A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol

Through Jan. 2

Hennepin Stages

824 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

(800) 982-2787

www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

In *The SantaLand Diaries*, Joe Leary, who wowed us in History Theatre's gay drama *Farm Boys*, and takes the reins as a Macy's "elf" in "SantaLand," shares, "The gay sensibilities are just incidental to the story, which is one of those things that I really like and identify with in David Sedaris's work. He talks about the upside of being outnumbered by elves who are college students. They're young, cute—and one of the job perks is getting to see them in their underpants."

Fabulous funny boy Doug Anderson, who is back with a madcap Minnesota take on Dickens in *A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol*, remarks, "It's such an energy boost to work in a show where there is a necessity to figure out how to stay in character while you wait for the audience to stop laughing. I play Knute Gunderson, the Donald Trump, if you will, of Bunyan Bay—the owner of a number or successful outlet stores who never grew out of his naïveté, and doesn't realize how self-absorbed he is."

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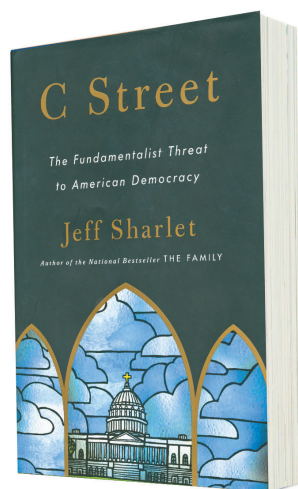
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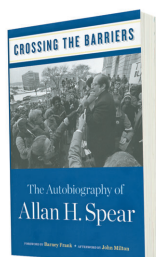
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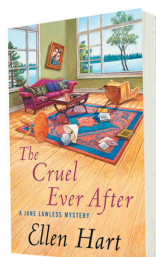
Contact the Chorus: **612-339-7664** or tcgmc.org/lavender

**C Street: The Fundamentalist Threat to American Democracy****JEFF SHARLET****LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY • \$26.99**

This follow-up to Jeff Sharlet's *The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power* (2008) makes a wonderful dystopian thriller. Unfortunately, it is nonfiction, an examination of the fundamentalist/political Fellowship whose center is located at the title's eponymous DC address. Sharlet, the only reporter to have lived in a Fellowship-owned house, takes as a starting point three recent Republican sex scandals involving John Ensign, Mark Sanford, and Chip Pickering, whose affairs were mitigated by C Street connections. The author moves on to fundamentalist influence on the American military and in foreign nations. One of the most riveting sections is his account of his findings in Uganda during intimate talks with David Bahati, the member of the country's Parliament who introduced the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. Regarding Senator James Inhofe (Republican-Oklahoma), Bahati acknowledged, "We respect him. We know him." Sharlet stresses repeatedly and convincingly that the Fellowship has targeted Africa specifically to try out techniques that can be brought back home to implement.

**Crossing the Barriers: The Autobiography of Allan H. Spear****ALLAN SPEAR****UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS
\$34.95**

Allan Spear's straightforward prose—along with his recounting of mistakes as well as triumphs, both personal and political—engages the reader from the first page. He writes of his early awareness of being gay, which at first alarmed him. He later embraced his gayness when he came out during his first term in the Minnesota Senate. Teaching at the University of Minnesota, he advocated the establishment of African-American studies. He was involved in the civil rights movement. Increasingly immersed in politics and the DFL Party, Spear spent 28 years in the Minnesota Senate (1972-2000), and was President of it 1993-2000. He was instrumental the passage of the 1993 Minnesota Human Rights Act Amendment, which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. Both DFL and Republican colleagues admired him. In 2008, the Minnesota Historical Society named Spear one of 150 Minnesotans who shaped the state during its first century-and-a-half.

**The Cruel Ever After: A Jane Lawless Mystery****ELLEN HART****MINOTAUR BOOKS • \$25.99**

This latest Jane Lawless mystery devolves around the sudden appearance of feckless Chester Garrity, her husband. Yes, husband. Jane is now a noted restaurateur—owner of Minneapolis's Lyme House Restaurant and Xandu Club—and an out lesbian. It seems Garrity's her ex whose defection years ago provided seed money for her business, though she hadn't mentioned his name to friends. Weell, not exactly "ex," Garrity confides, camped on her doorstep. He never exactly finalized the divorce. He's here because while in Minneapolis to sell a priceless (stolen) artifact, he woke up this morning next to the murdered corpse of a local art collector. I give you this tangled skein of information so you can hit the ground running, and plunge headlong—with Jane—into the ensuing free-for-all. The novel involves Jane's father (will he handle the divorce?); the incorrigible Cordelia Thorn; Jane's niece, Mia; and the murderer.

**Shadow Catchers: Camera-less Photography****MARTIN BARNES****MERRELL • \$69.95**

A glorious volume for gift or library, *Shadow Catchers*—from the exhibition of that name—highlights the work of five exceptional artists: Pierre Cordier, Susan Dergers, Adam Fuss, Gary Fabian Miller, and Floris Neustiss. Martin Barnes, Senior Curator of Photographs at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, offers a brief history of the camera-less art form, as well as thoughtful essays examining the work of each of the artists before his or her gallery of image. And what work it is! The diversity of the approach of these artists to images and the variety of their work are staggering, from water to what looks like (but isn't) electronic boards to living creatures. None of these artworks were birthed inside a camera, yet all explore the boundaries and meaning of light, dark, time, and boundaries of perception. William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877) had made similar images since 1834, but these artists have shown how far they can go, and hint at what may yet be revealed.

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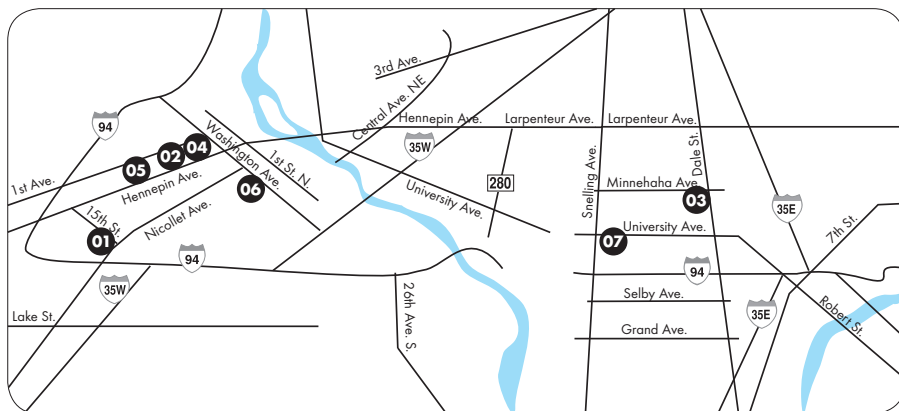
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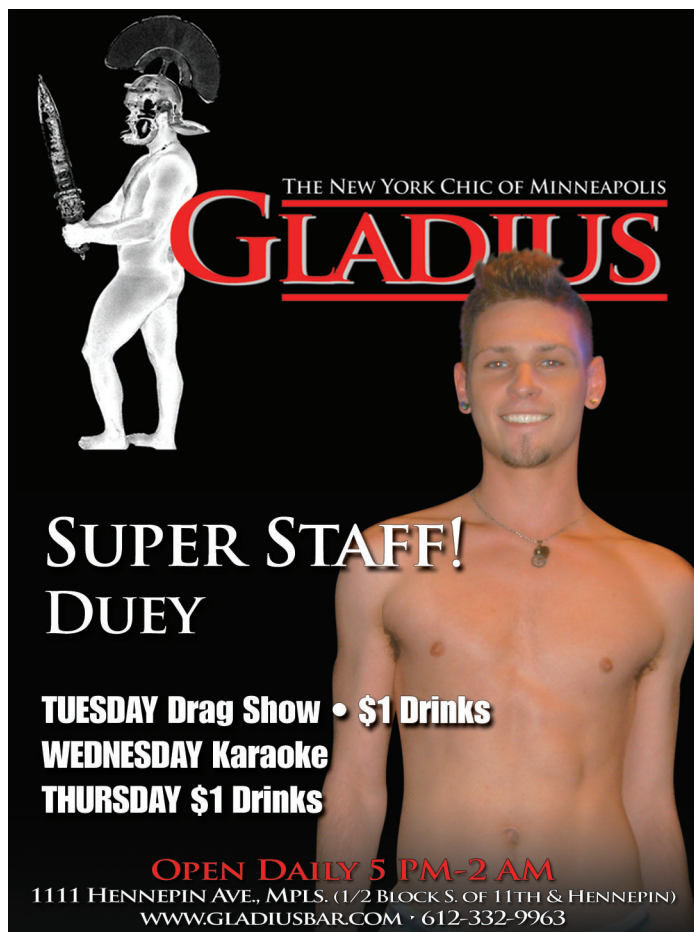
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PASSING



Photo Courtesy of Friends and Family of Domingo Ramos

DOMINGO RAMOS

Domingo Ramos, 43, of St. Paul, lost his long battle with cancer on November 16. Originally from New York, he had worked at the Gay 90's bar in Minneapolis for many years since moving to the Twin Cities in the 1990s. He is survived by his friend, Shawn Bruckner; many other friends and customers; and his family. A service of remembrance was held at the Gay 90's on November 22. Memorials may be sent to Regions Foundation, 640 Jackson Street, St. Paul MN 55101—designate "Cancer Center" in the memo area.

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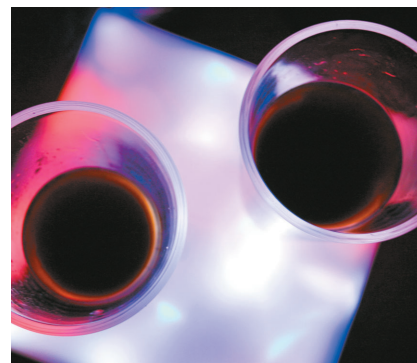
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Lip Service
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

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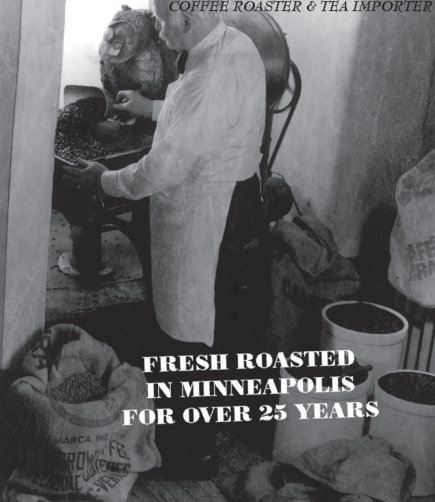
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While I was there on a busy Thursday night, my dining partner remarked how diners tended to linger over their tables well into the evening, enjoying just one more glass of wine before venturing back out into the cold.

SCUSI

HAS STRONG CONNECTION TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD IT SERVES

Scusi is part of the Blue Plate family—the company’s restaurants also include Edina Grill, Groveland Tap, Highland Park Grill, Longfellow Grill, and Three Squares Restaurant. Those other siblings are closely-related, sharing menu items and a similar atmosphere. Scusi, on the other hand, more resembles a stepchild, with a chef-driven, fairly-traditional Italian menu. Its only apparent Blue Plate “gene” is a strong connection to the neighborhood it serves. While I was there on a busy Thursday night, my dining partner remarked how diners tended to linger over their tables well into the evening, enjoying just one more glass of wine before venturing back out into the cold.

This tendency to remain tableside may be because of Scusi’s inviting, family-friendly dining room, or perhaps its generous wine prices. For what most restaurants charge per glass, servers here instead pour a quartino—about a glass-and-a-half, which two diners easily can share. If you have four quartinos throughout the course of the evening, you’ve enjoyed the equivalent of a bottle of wine, plus its equal (or less) in typical restaurant price, and best yet, you have the freedom to pair it with each course. The restaurant is able to keep prices low thanks ➡

Rucola: arugula, red peppers, fontina, garlic oil. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



(Clockwise from upper left) Bar area; Beet Rattafia; Herb Pappardelle.

This tendency to remain tableside may be because of Scusi's inviting, family-friendly dining room, or perhaps its generous wine prices.

to a state-of-the-art wine storage system, where an open bottle can remain perfectly fresh and table-ready for weeks, instead of a few days.

Our first taste of Scusi was crisp, acidic, and organic Frog's Leap Sauvignon Blanc (\$10 quartino/\$20 mezzo/\$29 bottle). A prim little bag of rosemary crackers and

white bean garlic dip arrived, which we immediately dumped onto one of many dinner-size plates stacked on our table. The reason for the plates, we later were told, is that food here, with the exception of appetizers and salads, comes out of the kitchen when it's ready—no heat lamps—so no one's arrives dry and congealed because someone else

ordered steak well-done. Therefore, family-style ordering is encouraged—the portions aren't so large as to be intimidating, and plates definitely are shareable. One easily could order both a pasta dish and an entrée, and not be too overwhelmed.

However, we eyed Beef Carpaccio (\$9), and began there. The acidic Frog's Leap actually pairs well with the pragmatic carpaccio, which is sprinkled with capers, and drizzled with marjoram aioli and olive oil. Sea salt is provided at the table, but we were warned that we never would need it for Executive Chef Alex Zuniga's fare—he is known for his seasoning perfection.

If you're used to a beet salad on the brighter side of the taste spectrum, prepare for something pleasantly different with Beet Rattafia (\$9). Zuniga's espresso, red wine, and honey rattafia sauce brings out the subtle earthy flavor in the beets. It really is the perfect winter salad, with its St. Pete's blue cheese and lush bed of mixed greens. If your server offers fresh cracked pepper, say yes. With the salad, we had a quartino of creamy, fuller-bodied Lageder Chardonnay (\$8.50/\$17/\$24.50). ➔

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CUISINE ♦ OFF THE EATEN PATH

Learning that Scusi pastas are house-made, we couldn't resist sampling Herb Pappardelle (\$8). On dreary winter weekends, my mother used to make homemade noodles, which have no comparison in texture or taste to a manufactured product—at least, I haven't found a product that can perform as well when cooked al dente. These fat, succulent noodles—the name “pappardelle” actually derives from the verb meaning “to gobble up”—are tossed with fresh herbs, shallots, white wine, butter, and a little extra virgin olive oil. What more does one need, really?

That last was supposed to be rhetorical, but I realized I had an answer: Braised Short Ribs (\$11). Like the pappardelle, this dish is uncomplicated, yet very satisfying. Brancaia Tre (\$10/\$20/\$29), rich with cocoa, dark fruit, and tannins, is a standout pairing.

The special Apple Spice Cake (usually around \$6) is moist to the point that it almost mimics bread pudding. All desserts at Scusi are made in-house. From what I tasted of the apple spice cake, if your evening is not going well at another restaurant, by all means get the check, and head here for dessert...

plus—what the hell?—another glass of wine. My dining partner and I both don't eat sweets often (I simply *must* find a friend with an unhealthy sugar habit), but the cake vanished in a few minutes—it was that good.

Scusi also offers pizza, with a selection of olives, meats, and cheeses, but *mi scusi*, one only can do so much in one evening.

Reservations, recommended for peak

dining hours, are available through <www.opentable.com>. **HEIDI FELLNER**

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MILWAUKEE

Welcome to the New Milwaukee. Over the past decade, the city has come of age.

While jogging along the emerald shoreline of Lake Michigan, past the urban backdrop of high-style high-rises and a world-class art museum, I'm thinking, "Chicago...Eat your heart out!"

Welcome to the New Milwaukee. Over the past decade, the city has come of age. Today, it's where Chicagoans flock to get their culture fix, roam elegant boutiques, and score dining finds. The experience is friendlier, safer, and—oh, yeah—cheaper than That Other City.

And, talk about slick? Waltz into the Iron Horse, a boutique hotel with faux-zebra carpets that slink between walls of chocolate and aqua, dressing a gentrified 1907 factory. Rehearse your look of laid-back cool in prep for storming the adjoining Third Ward—a Soho on steroids. Its anchor, the Public Market, coddles not squash and tomatoes, but an enclave of eateries such as St. Paul Fish Company (lobster dinner \$12, backed by Schlitz for a buck), as well as a breadsmith, chocolatier, wine guy, margarita taqueria, and more.

Then shop. You'll drop—at least, your jaw—at the likes of luxe Lela, sporting high-style frocks by local designers (vintage, too); Lorena Sarbu, set to outfit Oscar Night; Shoo, to sole your feet with \$300 one-of-a-kind;



(Above) Milwaukee's skyline at night. Photo Courtesy of visitmilwaukee.org. (Below) River Skyline Day. Photo Courtesy of DCD



(Clockwise from upper left) Miller Park interior; Milwaukee Theatre; Harbor. Photos Courtesy of visitmilwaukee.org

FOR A GAY OLD TIME, CRUISE THE BARS IN BAYVIEW, AKA GAYVIEW, INCLUDING LA CAGE, BALLGAME, BOOM & THE ROOM, FLUID, D.I.X., AND A DOZEN MORE.

and even Retique, the Goodwill outlet that has culled the glam castoffs of high society to suit you up for openings at neighboring art galleries. Check out the live theater and opera on offer. Go all locovore at Hinterland, a gastropub matching flights of brews to flights of fancy such as pork cheeks with apple slaw; walleye with wild rice, almonds, and cranberries in parsnip-tahini sauce; or elk tenderloin bathed with a date/wine reduction.

Stride the planks of RiverWalk, a three-mile hike from the Third Ward to Third Street, where brick buildings from the 1800s harbor classic food finds like Wisconsin Cheese Mart, boasting 200 varieties curated by brothers Ken and Alan; marble-clad Usinger's Famous Sausage, purveying 125 varieties; Spice House, with four types of hand-ground cinnamon alone; and Mader's, since 1902 a cavern of armor and dirndls, papered with autographed photos of satiated celebs, from Frank Sinatra and Audrey Hepburn to Bill Clinton. For the insider skinny, join Milwaukee Food Tours, a two-hour tasting romp—www.milwaukeefoodtours.com.

Calls for a bit of liquid refreshment, and Milwaukee has a tour for that, too. Lakefront

offers what its laff-a-minute leader calls the best-rated brewery tour—"because you don't have to wait till the end of the tour to start drinking." Imbibe Beermaking 101 while sampling Lakefront's four pours. Fish fry and polka band on Fridays, too.

Hard-core, are you? Then Great Lakes Distillery is your equal, with tour and tasting of its new plant producing vodka, absinthe, and Roamin' Dave's Rum. Shaken, not stirred? That's the drill at the Safe House, an unmarked bar on a dark, unmarked alley, home of 007-type high jinks. Trick mirrors, secret passages, even magicians. Cajole a buddy for the password, or you'll be given the third degree in the form of, say, performing a humbling chicken dance.

For a gay old time, cruise the bars in Bayview, AKA Gayview, including La Cage, Ballgame, Boom & The Room, Fluid, D.I.X., and a dozen more. Downtown, the Intercontinental Hotel is launching GLBT Thursdays in its snazzy bar, zenden.

And if it's cool, look for TV personality John McGivern. He and his boyfriend are huge fans of The Invasion—a gay-only Final Friday, 400-strong invasion of a straight

bar whose location is announced at the very last minute to an evite list—so popular that clubs beg to be featured. You also will spot McGivern at PrideFest Milwaukee, one of the largest in the nation, featuring entertainment by the likes of Joan Rivers.

The festival grounds lie in Milwaukee's most famous shadow—that of its stunning lakefront Art Museum, designed by Calatrava, Spain's primo architect. "It's the Sydney Opera House of Milwaukee," the locals boast. Inside the graceful silhouette, the collection ranges from mummies to Monets.

Fueled by caffeine at Alterra, a local coffee-roaster steaming things up in a former lakeside pump house, proceed to Grohmann Museum, celebrating men at work: 700 paintings by masters, old and older, portraying arduous occupations, from blacksmithing to hoeing fields and milling steel. Don't miss the grassy rooftop sculpture garden.

Haggerty Art Museum hosts its own gem of a collection—ranging from etchings by Hogarth to photos of Black Panthers—near a Medieval chapel moved here from Joan of Arc's hometown, both on the gorgeous Marquette University campus. Next, ➡



(Clockwise from left) Summerfest night; Public Museum; Milwaukee Theatre marquee. Photos Courtesy of visitmilwaukee.org

PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE, **ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE NATION,** FEATURES ENTERTAINMENT BY THE LIKES OF JOAN RIVERS.

it's on to the new Jewish Museum, boasting a tapestry created for it by Marc Chagall in honor of Milwaukee-born Golda Meir, an early Prime Minister of Israel. The museum weaves the story of Jewish immigrants to Milwaukee and their accomplishments with the heart-rending testimony of the city's Holocaust survivors.

Now for a horse of a different color: a museum of chic industrial demeanor portraying the magic—and mechanics—of the iron horse Harley Davidson, showcasing a pristine model of each year from its inception in 1903, along with tidbits of social history. It was marketed after World War I to gals as a “ladies’ experience”; adopted after World War II by biker clubs; and subsequently customized by masters of the glue gun, such as Elvis Presley’s hog and another for homeboy Liberace.

Time for dinner, and do I have some tips for you. For the finest of fine dining in the cosy contempo setting that once housed his parents’ grocery store, Sandy D’Amato maintains Sanford’s high standards with a seasonal menu that segues from mussel timbale to roasted tomato soup, and from cumin-dusted salmon to plum tart aside ice

cream perfumed with lemon verben. Just as tasty: my friend’s crepinette of pheasant and sweetbread with roasted parsnips and truffle-thyme brown butter.

The Bartoletta Boys also have put Milwaukee on a knowing diner’s map with several concepts tapping their Italian roots. In their fab French café perched above the lake, Lake Park Bistro, the James Beard Award-winning chef honors classics like mussels/frites, singular pâtés, and oeufs mollet (deep-fried softboiled eggs with mushrooms, fri-see, and truffle vinaigrette), along with duck confit, grilled salmon, and role-model steak/frites (more pencil-slender fries).

Roots lives its mantra—farm to table food—in a relaxed setting where guests can gobble salmon with chile-polenta relleno, black beans, and tomatillos, or succumb to pork scallops with sweetbread falafel, beet tahini, and minted almonds. For dessert: tomato jam with honey/plum sorbet.

Distil is the new kid on Wisconsin Street, Downtown Milwaukee’s restaurant row, winning applause for its dead-simple concept: predinner and postdinner list of Bourbons, hand-crafted cocktails, wine flights—what-

ever—accompanied by elite cheese or charcuterie choices, plus, um, unusual desserts, including ice creams flavored with bacon (no!), charred barrel (mildly scented vanilla), and tarragon (bring it on!).

Head to Café at the Plaza, anchoring a shabby-chic hotel of Art Deco days, for smart updates of diner fare: eggs with black truffle oil; scrambled smoked trout; or banana pancakes served with almond butter and banana syrup.

Thus assured your clothes no longer fit, the places for fellas to regarb lead off with Roger Stevens, within the ubergorgeous grande dame hotel, the Pfister, source of classic custom wear. At Aala Read, on eccentric Brady Street—once Italian (stop in the oldtime grocery for a whiff of the motherland), then a hippie haven, and now a scenester’s scene—win style points for starting your gym shoe collection (they’re worse than potato chips...can’t stop with just one), along with affordable office-to-playtime wear.

Eager to get it on? Contact <visitmilwaukee.org>. But first, a vocabulary lesson: Locals use only two syllables—M’waukee—not a wasteful excess of three. **CARLA WALDEMAR**

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INTERNAL BRANDING AND GLBT PRIDE

The concept of pride can take many forms for members of the GLBT community. Therefore, it may be helpful to put the idea of pride into a somewhat different context, allowing us to consider the notion from a new angle. A metaphor that expresses the unfamiliar in terms of the familiar can be useful for such purposes.

With this in mind, let's take a look at the idea of pride as a product of internal branding. Perhaps doing so will give us a fresh insight into why GLBT pride can be both internal and external in its applications and manifestations. Admittedly, it might seem a little strange to think of GLBT as a brand. Yet, in a very real sense, that's exactly what it is.

It has been said that a brand is a sum of identity, image, and aspiration. Choosing to identify ourselves as GLBT can allow us to develop a core sense of self (and of belonging to something larger than ourselves) to which we strongly relate. We become a sum of our GLBT identity; we create a unique image that we offer to the world; and we develop an aspiration to be open about who are, without guilt or shame, as much and as often as possible. This type of personal growth is at the heart of developing a sense of GLBT pride.

In the business community, increasing numbers of companies are recognizing the significance of employee buy-in to the organization and its brand. The Canadian Marketing Association defines internal branding as "the set of strategic processes that align and empower employees to deliver the appropriate customer experience in a consistent fashion." Being an advocate for its brand can be a key to success for the company, and thus for its people.

For those of us who are GLBT, internal branding is also a process. However, because it's also a very individualized journey of discovery, it may or may not be consciously strategic. After all, most of us don't plan to be GLBT—we find that out about ourselves, and make the choice to accept or buy into it, over time. This process involves per-



sonal exploration; life experiences; an acceptance of our differences and similarities; a recognition of our intrinsic sexual orientation and/or gender identity; and the choice to self-identify with being GLBT.

Internal branding, therefore, becomes a way of accessing, understanding, approving, and legitimately demonstrating pride in ourselves and in our GLBT community. It's how we come to validate who we are,

and distinguish our individual/collective worth as human beings.

The benefits of internal branding for a business organization usually include better-informed employees who become happier with their jobs, their lives, etc., ultimately resulting in happier customers coming back for more.

The focus on internal branding for employees involves a legitimate business strategy aimed at increasing company revenue and controlling costs in a nonmanipulative manner. These are strong benefits, and they are good ones if you're interested in being profitable. Think 3M, Coca-Cola, NFL, etc.

Advantages also are derived personally when a GLBT individual begins the process of internal branding. They include being happier with one's life, relationships, overall health, and status in the world. When something feels right, and makes you happy, you want to come back for more. That's a primary benefit of internal branding as a source of GLBT pride.

In business, three fundamental elements appear to contribute to the success of an employee branding strategy and implementation: pride/confidence, stories/culture, and consistency. Each of them is a significant component in the successful development of internal branding. Let's examine them from the perspective of a GLBT person.

Pride/confidence correlates directly to the set of values that we tend to associate with being GLBT. However, it's important to recognize that each person will bring his or her own set of values to the table, and interpret/apply them accordingly. Some have called this initiative a "quest for meaning."

As they engage in this endeavor, many find they develop a sense of pride in being GLBT, along with an inner confidence that allows them to operate more healthily in the world. Self-acceptance is a powerful thing. So, while we learn to take pride in our GLBT status, we also gain confidence that we are worthwhile, and can achieve anything we set out to do.

Over time, our pride and confidence continue to grow, motivating us to succeed even further in our personal/communal quest for meaning. Pride in ourselves and in our community is, therefore, a beneficial result of this "quest for meaning."

Stories/culture is about the creation and continual nurturing of individual and community identity. One of the most effective ways of communicating a business brand and fostering a sense of internal branding is through the use of stories. In an organization, the telling and retelling of the "company story" is a powerful way to instill a sense of belonging and dedication to the business's brand. Doing so helps build solidarity and a sense of organizational culture.

For GLBT persons, the telling of our stories and history provides tangible evidence and context for meaningful, life-affirming behaviors in ways that easily can be illustrated and remembered. For example, the AIDS Quilt has been a powerful symbol of events that significantly impact the GLBT community. Recognizing June as Pride Month is also a way of helping to develop a sense of extended family and strong community. Gathering together at Pride festivals, marching in Pride parades, and attending various Pride-related events are other ways in which GLBT culture grows and thrives.

Consistency has to do with engaging in healthy, affirming be-

haviors on a steady basis. A sense of pride in being GLBT doesn't appear just automatically one day. It is, instead, the cumulative product of thoughts and actions over time that lead to an enhanced awareness of our own worth, validity, and place in the world. This, in turn, creates a sense of wholeness and congruence within the individual. Our inner identity becomes more aligned and in tune with our external experience, allowing us to know ourselves more fully, and relate to the larger GLBT community in healthy ways.

Consistency in every area of life is something to be desired, but it is perhaps even more important when a person is GLBT. Developing dependable habits, thoughts, and behaviors helps us create a strong sense of pride in who we are and in belonging to the larger GLBT community.

Internal branding is a way of understanding, inculcating, and expressing a positive connection to an idea, a concept, an organization, a state of mind, a group, or a community. When we come to believe in what we're doing, or in who we are, we internally accept and identify with a specific brand. For a GLBT person, this type of acceptance and identification allows one to become a more integrated individual, as well as a member of a specific community composed of many GLBT people.

Human beings are social creatures—and, as Maslow tells us, the human need to belong is a major source of motivation. Individuals join groups with which they share commonalities. People like to feel that they can relate to someone who is similar to them. They also want to be around those whom they believe can understand them.

We're discovering that internal branding can be a legitimate source of motivation for personal identification and group attachment. It's a way for individuals to grow in self-understanding and in their connections to others in society. It's also a way for GLBT people to gain greater self-acceptance and a stronger sense of individual strength, as well become a "member of the tribe," and more fully actualized on any number of levels.

Consider a few questions that may add some meaning to your own notion of GLBT pride.

- Does being GLBT have a positive connotation and/or influence in my life?
- If not, why is that?
- Do I have connections with others who share my experience of being GLBT?
- Do I feel a sense of belonging to the larger GLBT community?
- Do I feel a personal sense of pride in being GLBT?
- If I have pride in being GLBT, from where does that feeling originate?
- What are two or three things that I might do to develop further or enhance my personal sense of GLBT pride?

Taking pride in being GLBT is not the equivalent of arrogance. Instead, it's about a realistic acceptance of our core human identity, and being glad about our uniqueness. We are special, remarkable people (not better than others, to be sure, but different), and we have much in which we legitimately can take pride. This year, try counting the ways in which your singular differences help you become a stronger, better person. Discover what internal branding can mean for you. **VANESSA SHERIDAN**

INTERNAL BRANDING BECOMES A WAY OF ACCESSING, UNDERSTANDING, APPROVING, AND LEGITIMATELY DEMONSTRATING PRIDE IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR GLBT COMMUNITY.

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CALENDAR

DECEMBER

3

Friday, December

BINGO BONANZA FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Start the holiday season off right with Miss Richfield 1981's 2010 holiday show, *Bingo Bonanza for the Holidays*. The audience gets to play, as Miss R calls three rounds of bingo for her favorite charity, plus discusses her latest travels, appropriate dress, and other vital matters. Through Dec. 19. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.



Photo Courtesy of Christopher Beer

FAUX. Uptown Minneapolis today is the setting of this new locally-made film by director-writer-cinematographer Christopher Beer. It blurs the categories of gay, straight, and even bisexual. Caleb, played by Andrew Sass, has lost his wife, Annie, but connects with Rin, portrayed by Jemar Rovie-Frenchwood, igniting luminous passion. Through Dec. 5. St. Anthony Main Theatre, 115 Main St. SE, Mpls. (612) 331-4723. <www.fallingupsky.com>.

4

Saturday, December

A JUSTICE-CENTERED HOLIDAY MARKET & GLBT BOOK FAIR. Here's a great opportunity to enhance your holiday gift-giving experience by purchasing unique cultural gifts, crafts, art, plus GLBT books addressing safety, self-defense, saying no to suicide, and much more. Also, you'll find opportunities to make gift donations in support of organizations that work to address critical human and environmental needs. Refreshments available. 11 AM-3 PM. Cherokee Park United Church, 371 W. Baker St., St. Paul. (651) 227-4275. <www.cherokeeparkunited.org>.

QUATREFOIL ANNUAL USED GLBT BOOK SALE. Come out to Quatrefoil Library, where hundreds of fiction and nonfiction paperbacks and hardcovers are for sale from \$1 to \$5 each. During the last half-hour's bag sale, select a bag-full of books for only \$5. 11 AM-3 PM. Quatrefoil Library, 1619 Dayton Ave., St. Paul. (651) 641-0969. <www.qlibrary.org>.

5

Sunday, December

LAVENDER'S OUT IN THE STANDS. Join Lavender at the Metrodome to watch the Vikings take on the Buffalo Bills. Your ticket includes a pregame brunch at Tickle's, an OUT in the Stands T-shirt, game admission, and a postgame beer bust at Tickle's. A limited number of tickets are available, so order yours today. Pregame Brunch at Tickle's, 9-10:30 AM. Game at Mall of America Field, Mpls., Noon. Tickets \$60. <www.lavendermagazine.com/outinthestands>

6

Monday, December

FULL CIRCLE. It's a two-person exhibition of painting by Jim Dryden and ceramic installation by Kathy Wismar. Dryden's work explores themes of partnership, relationship, and intimacy in which circular motifs reference a sense of connection and continuity. Hand-built or thrown on a wheel, Kathy Wismar's unique pieces acknowledge the past, while reaching into the future. Through Jan 10. Opening reception Dec. 11. Traffic Zone Gallery, 250 3rd Ave. N., Mpls. (651) 592-1841. <www.trafficzoneart.com>.

7

Tuesday, December

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. You are what you

dream. Enjoy this perennially-popular production, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It features *American Idol* finalist Anthony Federov, along with a cast of 80, including 50 local children. Through Jan. 2. Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>

10

Friday, December

2 PIANOS, 4 HANDS. This production brings fabulous music, hilarious one-liners, and razor-sharp insights into the world of competition for the holiday season. Two actors, playing grand pianos and multiple roles, grace the stage, as the story of two piano whiz kids unfolds. Through Jan. 2. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

HOLIDAY HARMONIES: RINGING IN THE SEASON. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus rings in its 30th season with its annual holiday concert in collaboration with Bells of the Lake handbell choir. As always, the chorus will perform works richly steeped in holiday traditions, while adding wit and whimsy, along with over-the-top staging, as only it can do. Dec 10-11, 8 PM. Dec. 12, 2 PM. Ted Mann Concert Hall, Univ. of Minn., 2128 4th St. S., Mpls. (612) 624-2345. <www.northrop.umn.edu>.

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Saturday, December

ELLIS HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE CONCERT. Nationally-touring singer-songwriter Ellis repeatedly has been voted Best Local Musician by *Lavender* readers. She invites you to her 7th-annual Holiday Food Drive Concert, a music-filled evening to help out needy Twin Cities residents of the Twin Cities. The concert usually sells out, so buy tickets in advance, and arrive early to get a seat. 8 PM. Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. <www.ellis-music.com>.

ONGOING

BORN YESTERDAY. This comedy by Garson Kanin is the story of the vulgar, egotistic—and rich—Harry Brock, as he arrives in our nation's capital toting his ex-showgirl mistress, Billie. While he's out making backroom deals, he hires a newspaper reporter to tutor her in the ways of Washington. She proves to be a quick study. This comedy had one of the longest Broadway runs in history. Through Dec. 12. Theatre in the Round Players, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. <www.theatreintheround.org>.

BRETT FAVRE'S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR II: THE SECOND COMING. Break from the family fumbles of the holiday season, and cheer, as the all-star holiday lineup takes the field for Brett Favre's *Christmas Spectacular II: The Second Coming*. Brave New Workshop spike the holiday season with seasonal favorites, plus all-new sketches and songs, to leave audiences laughing through the New Year. Through Jan. 29. Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 332-6620. <www.bravenewworkshop.com>.

THE CHRISTMAS SCHOONER. Written by John Reeger, with music and lyrics by Julie Shannon, it's the true story of the Christmas Tree Ships that sailed on Lake Michigan to bring evergreens to the people of Chicago in the late 1800s. Beautiful songs and joyful dances performed by the 15-person ensemble make this retelling a warm family entertainment for the holiday season. Through Dec. 19. The History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul. (651) 292-4323. <www.historytheatre.com>.

TRETTER COLLECTION 10TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the internationally-acclaimed Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota, an exhibit, *Saving Our Lives*, runs through February 5. University of Minnesota, Elmer L. Andersen Library. <http://l.umn.edu/tretterevents>.

TRIPLE ESPRESSO. It's the irresistible story of a comedy trio going for their big break, only to have their hopes dashed over and over on the rocks of one magnificently funny failure after another. Hugh, Buzz, and Bobby reunite for a hilarious evening of music, magic, and megalaughs in this audience favorite that appeals to everyone from age 6 to 106. It's a perfect group outing. Through Jan. 9. Music Box Theatre, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 424-1407. <www.musicboxtheatre.org>.

For additional calendar events, visit <www.LavenderMagazine.com>.

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BACKTALK ♦ THROUGH THESE EYES

The Lancelot Boy



One of my great treasures as a child was a plastic crown decorated with emeralds, rubies, and sapphires. It was too big for my head, so it sat on my ears, giving me something of a demented Dumbo-meets-Frodo air. In my crown, I reigned over Matchbox cars and G.I. Joes in a kingdom of bathtubs and bedtimes. I was no longer Justin the Boy. I was Justin the King. That is, until King Arthur came along.

The story of King Arthur and his Knights offered everything a young king desires: armor and swords, magic and power, enchantment and triumph. I invented my own version of the story for my friends, and, being the only boy in the neighborhood with a crown, I became Arthur. My best friend was Merlin. Barbie was my Queen Guinevere. Others played knights and villains. All envied my spray-painted symbol of power.

As I entered puberty, I lost interest in the pretend, but my adoration for Arthur and his men only had begun. I began to view them in an unspeakable, romantic way. It wasn't Arthur who stole my heart—I'd grown tired of him. He represented my life before sexual revolution.

It was instead one of his men: Sir Lancelot. He was the proverbial knight in shining armor. He swept an unhappy Guinevere off her feet with promises of adventure and passion.

Lancelot would do the same for me. He'd dispel my suburban existence ruled by grades and rehearsals. He'd protect me, and wash away the pain of my childhood. He'd whisk me away into Happily Ever After. I watched for his glistening form on the horizon for years.

Of course, Lancelot never came. Whenever I thought he had, he turned out to be another Arthur: a false hope—a stale,

crumbling dream.

I was in college when I finally accepted this, but my life was no more my own. Rather than bathtubs and bedtimes, I now answered to class schedules, professors, and a part-time job. I answered to the pressures of my future—my comfortable, bland future. All Arthur. No Lancelot.

I was back home one weekend when my niece, as old as I was when I discovered Arthur, found a picture. "Look Uncle Justin," she said, "It's you."

The picture was 10 years old, and smelled of an old book, musty from being stored away so long. It had that unmistakable early-'90s look about it. The colors were dull. It had a crease in the middle.

There I was, standing in the open front door to my grandmother's house. I was smiling the awful gremlin smile that was my trademark as a child—my eyes nearly shut, my smile so forced and wide. I was wearing jeans dirty at the knees, tucked into cowboy boots, with a green pillowcase safety-pinned around my neck as a cape. I was holding a sword. My ears were bent outward uncomfortably under the weight of an oversized crown.

My niece began her breathless interview: "How old were you? How many friends did you have? Where's my Dad? Did you get in trouble 'cause of your jeans? You look silly. Where's that crown? Will you give it to me?"

So, I put her on my lap, and told her the fairy tale of a young Uncle Justin and his Knights of the Round Table. I recounted tales of silly adventures, of bravery and valor, of the trouble I caused.

As I remembered my hope, my dreams, and my optimism as a child, I realized that all the time I'd been waiting for Lancelot to rescue me really had been spent awaiting someone else—someone more important. Me. **JUSTIN JONES**

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Lessons from Sheep

I'm writing this from a remote cottage in the Lake District of England. Across the road is the highest mountain in England (it's not that high) and the deepest lake (it's not that deep)—perfect record-holders for this country, which considers moderation in all things a top virtue.

The one thing England seems to relish overindulging in: sheep. The countryside is lousy with them, and I'm absolutely surrounded by them at the moment. Upon waking, I looked out my window, and a sheep was blinking at me. Hundreds of them roam the foothills outside the cottage, baaaaaang, munching on grass, and clogging up the road to the pub.

At first, these creatures charmed me, but after several days, they began to work on my nerves. That's mainly because even after I extended a hand in friendship—trying to strike up conversation; refusing to eat them even when cooked up in delicious meat pies; and singing charming rhyme songs about the terrible scourge of wolves—they simply ignored me.

It was quite a disappointment, considering that I have a history of winning over farm animals. I'm beloved by pigs, goats, and horses.

When I told a local farmer my frustration, he explained that grazing animals have no interest in humans, because they don't rely on us for food. It was quite a shock! Apparently, animals only want us for our food. They feign unconditional love in order to get it. I made a note to have a chat with my dogs when I

returned home.

As long as the farmer and I were on the subject of sheep, I asked why many of them had colorful spots on their coats. It looked as if a graffiti artist had been turned loose in the pasture, and attacked the sheep with cans of spray paint.

"Oh, that were a tuppin' mark," the farmer said. (Some English have trouble with their tenses.) Unfortunately, charming English country folk in quaint villages do not come with subtitles, so I had to wait until I got home to Google a translation.

"Tupping" is the mark left by a ram after he has his way with a lady sheep. In other words, it's a shtupping mark. The farmer sprays the ram's nether regions with paint (what a fun job!), and the paint rubs off on

the welcoming ewe.

Shakespeare's *Othello* has a famous "tupping" line, but I'll let you look that up yourself, because it's shocking and racist.

This information gave me a fresh perspective on sheep. As I passed pasture after pasture, and saw ewe after ewe with telltale tupping marks, I came to the stunning conclusion that all lady sheep are sluts! This gave me a whole new respect for sheep.

Then, this morning, while hiking in the foothills, I came upon a pasture of rams. One of them had several colorful tupping marks on his rump! I immediately trotted back to the farmer with this exciting news.

"Oi, that ram were a pofftah," the farmer said calmly. "The other rams tup 'im. He don't mind a bit."

When I asked if any similar action was occurring among lady sheep, he nodded sagely, "Aye, but it's harder to tell. When a ewe likes another ewe, she just stands very close to her, and won't leave her side."

This behavior could go on for the lifetime of the ewes, each standing close to each other, neither of them willing to make the first move.

Suddenly, all those years spent making meaningless eye contact with cute girls at lesbian bars made perfect sense to me.

"We're all just sheep, ain't we?" the farmer asked. JENNIFER PARELLO

TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

por RODRO



The Morality Hand forces me to go to the bathroom in the dark, and look the other way when I pee.



She forces me to cover the mirrors that show my nakedness.



And the worst part...



She has me wear diapers!

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On Purpose

Having failed in a personal quest to find purpose in my life, I recently created a task force to conduct a search, and report back to me on December 1.

The committee, composed of community leaders, clergy, and cliff-divers, met at 8 PM on my birthday, November 17. The minutes from that meeting follow:

1. Committee chairman Rufus Williams moved to disband the committee, citing exhaustion.

2. Joanne Flugal seconded the motion, citing futility in the committee's mission. Flugal, who is responsible for finding prospective employers, shared the results of her search with the committee:

"One hundred local companies were contacted. I explained, in detail, our goal to provide purpose to Ms. Dafydd's life. Only one company, Boundary Water Taffy, expressed interest. Though no job was available, they offered to keep Ms. Dafydd's résumé on file for one year. They then issued a challenge to all industries to keep the Dafydd résumé on file for a year."

3. Reggie Mayfield, who had led the committee's facility search, reported back on his efforts to find a place for Julie Dafydd to loiter, if employment proves unattainable:

"Most of the facilities I contacted were familiar with Dafydd's work in this area. The only enthusiastic response, however, came from a Denny Hecker used car tent."

4. Next to address the committee was Sanford Payrack, a lifelong member of Villagers Unite! It's a community volunteer group that has spearheaded numerous grassroots campaigns:

"I demand to be paid for this crap!" he said.

5. State Senator Missy Bachman spoke of pending legislation to provide state-mandated purpose to Dafydd's life:

"I have recently authored a bill that would allow Dafydd unlimited use of the phrase: 'We now compete in a global marketplace.' It got me elected without knowing anything, and should be made available to those who desperately need to make an impression."

6. Chuck Millman reported to the committee on bids he has received to restring Ms. Dafydd's childhood softball mitt:

"As the committee knows, I have long felt that repair of said mitt is certain to lift Julie's morale, and make her more of an active par-

ticipant in Nerf Ball-catching events staged in her apartment.

"We received three bids:

Zimbrose Stitching—\$23

Leonard Leatherworks—\$33

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"I recommend the contract be awarded to Mr. Zimbrose, and he be adequately forewarned of the condition of Dafydd's apartment, and he be required to view it beforehand by watching outtakes from an upcoming episode of *Hoarders*."

7. The committee recessed for 10 minutes, and began an impromptu game of craps.

8. The committee reconvened to discuss the chairman's motion to disband. In an informal voice vote, the tally was: yeeehahhh!

9. Jeff Crump, a purported friend of Ms. Dafydd's, asked to address the committee. He was allotted two minutes, and charged \$6. Crump's remarks follow:

"I have known Julie for at least a few weeks. In that time, I have seen her transformed from a slothful recluse to a shadow of that. She asked me to speak to you, the committee, to give her a sense of purpose by offering her a position on this committee. She, more than anyone, is intimate with her own struggles. In her own words: 'There are so many different types of cheese these days.' Please give her someone to share her words with. Thank you."

10. Chairman Williams moved to charge Crump a \$4 overtime charge, invoking a clause from the MSP Airport parking handbook, the Talmud of airport pricing.

11. In another voice vote, the committee considered Crump's recommendation that Dafydd be included on the committee. The result was an overwhelming: "NOPE-NOPE-NOPE-NOPE-NOPE-NOPE-NOPE."

12. Chairman Williams, after a brief discussion of new business and new cheese, moved for adjournment.

In case you hadn't already guessed, I have a real problem dealing with the holiday break from college. No homework? No play rehearsal? No student bong parties? I'm a lost woman with no purpose.

Well, hell, consider the source, and meeting adjourned.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. **JULIE DAFYDD**

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Lonely Lesbian Pestern Gay Boys

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My partner and I always have kept to ourselves, but now, we have this new neighbor who just moved in, and constantly shows up on the doorstep.

Yvonne is a nice older woman, but lonely. She's a lesbian whose girlfriend died eons ago, and she never found another one.

It seems that Yvonne never gets to spend time with gay people, and now, she's thrilled to have "gay boys" (that's what she calls us) living near by.

Constantly, Yvonne talks about gay this and gay that. She clearly is stuck in the '70s and '80s. She still goes on about dancing at New York bars in the old days. She manages to fit the word "fabulous" into every sentence.

Yvonne finds little excuses to come over, and drop by to talk. She walks by our house several times a day, hoping to catch my partner or me at home.

We have had Yvonne to dinner, but she also tends to stop by when she sees us en-

tertaining in the yard. Our friends find her off-putting, though benign.

We plan to have a few parties around the holidays. Of course, we will invite Yvonne to the small one we're having for a few neighbors.

But how do we let Yvonne know that she's not welcome at our other parties? How do we tell her that she needs to be invited to show up at our door?

—JIM AND ALBERT

Dear Jim and Albert:

Talking to a lonely older person, especially a widow, is a mitzvah (a good deed)—plus, you never know when you might need a cup of sugar or some local gossip—but it must be balanced with your own need for peace and privacy.

Neglecting to deal directly with your neighbor's lack of boundaries means she may take over your property like a weed. You'll be held hostage by chatter about disco, mullets, and Stonewall, while trying to entertain visitors in your own yard.

Practice a few gentle phrases, like: "This isn't a great time, but we'd love to see you later"; or, "Some old friends just dropped by. We'll catch up with you when we have more time."

If Yvonne does not respond to or even notice social cues, and continues to show up, you'll have to be even more direct, perhaps using language she understands: "We're happy to spend time discussing Harvey Milk with you, but we also need some alone time with our 'gay boy' friends, so we can impersonate Bette Midler and Judy Garland, and snort poppers and dance."

Then, stop by briefly once in a while, or invite Yvonne to come over, but only after calling or e-mailing, and setting a precise time.

If you model the behavior of making appointments before showing up, let's hope Yvonne will get the message that's what's expected of her, too.

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Why do you make excuses for lesbians, when, in fact, most of them are hostile, especially to men. Are you yourself a lesbian? Are you speaking from experience?

I am a gay man who has a lesbian sister. Unfortunately, I've been around many lesbians, including my sister, who are hostile. You would think that's what they live for. They don't care about anything but other lesbians.

They act like men, dress like men, use strap-ons, and have serious penis envy! Yet, oddly enough, they hate men, and are so vicious toward most men. The men they do get along with are the really fem ones.

—MARK

Dear Mark:

Please allow Ms. Behavior to come out to you as a lesbian, and to apologize on behalf of all lesbians who have at any time envied your penis, and threatened your masculinity. It would be best if you could see a shrink immediately to deal with your feelings of diminishment.

If this seems too far-fetched, Ms. Behavior would like to arrange a no-cost healing experience for you. If you just will provide your home address, she happily will send a gaggle of kind-hearted lesbians clad in camisoles and flowing skirts who will behave with the utmost femininity and respect in understanding your pain, and healing your psychic wounds.

They will bake you bread, and let you rest your head on their warm bosoms. Let's hope these sweet, loving lesbians won't wear any penile accessories beneath their lady clothes. They will make up for all you've suffered at the hands of mean lesbians who wear men's suits and strap-ons!

MERYL COHEN

© 2010 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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